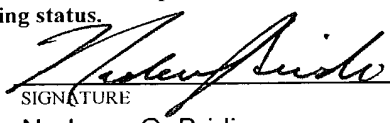


FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>VAC.704.US</b>	
<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/009294</b>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/GB00/01566</b>		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE <b>20 April 2000</b>		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED <b>22 April 1999</b>	
TITLE OF INVENTION <b>WOUND TREATMENT APPARATUS EMPLOYING REDUCED PRESSURE</b>					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US <b>HEATON, Keith Patrick, et al.</b>					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</li> <li>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).</li> <li>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</li> <li>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</li> </ol>					
<b>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</b>					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</li> <li>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li>13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment.</li> <li>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.</li> <li>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</li> <li>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.</li> <li>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>20. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</li> </ol>					

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (Known or Not Known)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER	
107009294		PCT/GB00/01566		VAC.704.US	
<b>21. [X] The following fees are submitted:</b> <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO. . . . . \$1000.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO . . . . . \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO . . . . . \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) . . . . . \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) . . . . . \$100.00 <b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>				<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$ 860.00	
CLAIMS				\$	
Total claims 7 - 20 = 0 x \$18.00				\$ 0.00	
Independent claims 1 - 3 = 0 x \$80.00				\$ 0.00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) + \$270.00				\$ 0.00	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				\$ 860.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2. +				\$ 0.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				\$ 860.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$ 0.00	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				\$ 860.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$ 0.00	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				\$ 860.00	
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d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. <b>WARNING:</b> Information on this form may become public. <b>Credit card information should not be included on this form.</b> Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.					
<b>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</b>					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO Kinetic Concepts, Inc. Attn: Nadeem Bridi P.O. Box 659508 San Antonio, TX 78265-9508					
				 SIGNATURE Nadeem G. Bridi NAME 42,361 REGISTRATION NUMBER	



10609294 107009294

JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 OCT 2001

22 October 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

*Re: National Phase Examination of PCT/GB00/01566 for  
"WOUND TREATMENT APPARATUS EMPLOYING REDUCED  
PRESSURE"  
Inventor: Heaton, et al.  
International Filing Date: 20 April 200  
Priority Date: 22 April 1999  
Attorney Docket No.: VAC.704.US*

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed herewith, please find the following for filing in the above referenced matter:

1. Transmittal Form PTO-1390 as Request for National Examination;
2. Duplicate copy of Transmittal Form PTO-1390; and
3. Itemized Postcard to be returned upon receipt.

Please charge the required fee of \$860.00 and any additional fees required to Deposit Account no. 50-0326. A copy of this letter and Transmittal Form PTO-1390 is attached for accounting purposes.

Please contact the undersigned for any questions or concerns at (210) 255-4543. Thank you for your assistance.

Yours very truly,

Nadeem G. Bridi  
Reg. No. 42,361

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**WOUND TREATMENT APPARATUS EMPLOYING REDUCED PRESSURE**

The present invention relates to an apparatus for the healing of wounds and more particularly to preventing progression of partial-thickness burns.

Where a person suffers a burn, the dermal and epidermal layers in the region of the wound are damaged. Closure of the resulting wound is important to prevent loss of body fluids and invasion by micro-organisms. In the case of a partial-thickness burn, epithelial and subcutaneous tissue adjacent to the wound will migrate outwards and eventually grow new tissue over the wound. A wide array of wound coverings have been developed to expedite wound closure and allow the natural processes of repairing the damaged tissue to proceed.

The prognosis of a wound caused by a burn depends on the severity of the injury and particularly the depth of the burn. In general, a partial-thickness burn will heal more quickly and with less complications than a deeply penetrating burn. It has been observed that partial-thickness burns often deteriorate and become more serious, deeper burns, if not treated promptly after incurring the burn injury.

The hands more often suffer burn injuries than other parts of the body. Probably, this is due to the natural reaction of attempting to protect the face with the hands and, in many cases, the burn injury is to the backs of the hands. Other parts of the body which more frequently suffer burns may be the arms, feet and legs.

The present invention seeks to provide apparatus for treating injuries to a part of the body, especially injuries caused by burns.

According to one aspect of the invention there is provided apparatus for stimulating healing of wounds which comprises an envelope for receiving an affected part of the body, said envelope including a substantially air-tight cover and a porous pad within the cover, said cover being adapted to contact the wound surface, and connection means for connecting the interior of the envelope to a source of negative pressure.

By substantially "air-tight" cover is meant one which is sufficiently air-tight that by applying suction to the porous pad, a pressure below ambient can be maintained within the envelope. It is not, however, necessary for the material of the envelope to be totally air occlusive.

It has been found that when negative pressure therapy using the apparatus of the invention is applied to a burn within a relatively short time of incurring the injury (e.g. within about 12 hours), not only is the rate of healing improved but progression of a partial-thickness burn to a deeper injury is arrested.

In one embodiment, the apparatus of the invention the envelope comprises a glove, sleeve or sock. For example, the apparatus may include a glove formed from a flexible plastics or rubber foam which is contained within a cover of low air-porosity. Typically, the flexible plastics foam is a polyurethane or polyvinyl alcohol (pva) foam having intercommunicating cells or a combination of such foams, e.g. as a laminate. In such a laminate, the pva layer may be adjacent the wound.

Additional features of the present application will become apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is an exploded perspective view of the porous pad;

Figure 2 is a perspective view when the porous pad is assembled together;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the porous pad within its cover;

Figures 4a to 4d show various views of a connector for pneumatically connecting the porous pad to a source of negative pressure; and

Figure 5 is a plan view of a modified cover.

The embodiment shown in the accompanying drawings is designed for use in treating burns to the hand.

It will be appreciated that various appropriate modifications are possible for treating burns to other parts of the body, such as feet within the scope of the invention.

Figures 1, 2 and 3 show apparatus (10) for treating wounds to the hands comprising a porous pad having a lower base (22), a middle section (24) and an upper section (26) incorporated within a cover (12) of low air porosity. The porous pad is in the form of a glove or mitten and may be constructed by fixing the upper section (26) to the base (22) while retaining the middle section (24) within the cavity so formed. Typically, the porous pad is a reticulated plastics foam, and may be formed by gluing or welding the separate sections together. When placed inside the pad, the hand is held in place with fingers spread by finger-separators (25) and V-cut type grooves (14). As shown in Figures 2 and 3, the foam may be shaped to provide for a separate supporting compartment (27) for the thumb to aid the attainment of the optimum positions of the fingers and thumb for healing. However, this is not

essential. The pad is preferably made from a reticulated foam such as polyurethane as described in PCT application WO 96/05873, polyvinylalcohol foam or a combination thereof.

Figure 3 shows the assembled pad after insertion into a cover (12). Cover (12) is an envelope formed from air-impermeable sheet material, e.g. polyurethane or polyolefin film, and is sized to encompass the glove-shaped porous pad. One end of the cover (12) has a large opening which is closable by an easily re-sealable means (4) such as a zip-type seal used on food bags. The other end (8) includes a substantially impermeable pressure-sensitive acrylic resin adhesive (9), the underside of which is secured as a tight seal to the patient's skin. The open end (8) may be coated on its inner surface with a pressure-sensitive acrylic resin adhesive (9) in order to seal the cover to the patient's skin, e.g. at the wrist or lower arm. Alternatively, the end (8) may be sealed to the patient's wrist with a separate piece of adhesive tape, such as a polyurethane film coated with a pressure-sensitive adhesive. The open end (8) is open and is tapered as shown. By providing a taper, the open end can be cut to a size such that the opening will fit snugly around the patient's wrist. Attached to the cover (12) in the region of a central part of the porous pad is a connector (100). Connector (100) may be attached to the cover by adhesive.

Figure 5 is a plan view of a cover similar to cover (12) shown in Figure 3. The same reference numerals are used to indicate corresponding parts. The cover shown in Figure 5 differs from that shown in Figure 3 in that the end (8) for attachment at the patient's wrist has a somewhat larger taper and is designed so that

the end can be trimmed to suit the patient. The connector (100) has a generally circular flange (101) whose underside face (i.e. the face which in use contacts the foam page 20) is formed with small projecting buttons. The construction of this aspect of the connector is as described in GB Patent Application No. 2,333,965. Instead of using a zip lock seal, a seal of the "Velcro" type can be used. In this embodiment, a zip lock seal (4) is formed from polyethylene and this is joined to the rest of the cover, which is formed from polyurethane, by adhesive tape.

Figures 4a to 4d show various views of the connector (100) and it will be seen that it comprises a moulded plastics flange portion (101) and suction port having a centrally positioned spout (102) and aperture (106). The connector (100) is firmly attached to the cover by an adhesive. The spout extends through a hole cut in the cover and the upper surface of the flange 101 is bonded with adhesive to the cover (12). The spout (102) is sized to accept as a closely sliding fit, the end of a single or multi-lumen tube (30) which emerges from beneath the wound cover (12). Tube (30) may be constructed as described in co-pending patent application WO 97/18007. Where a multi-lumen tube is used, one lumen can be used for measuring the pressure at the burn site. It is also within the scope of this invention to irrigate the burn or other wound through one of the lumens or via a separate connector to the foam pad. The connector or connectors can be used to introduce drugs, e.g. antibiotics, to the wound site. The cover drape (12) is preferably made from a flexible film of low air permeability such as polyurethane and may include a protective layer of polyethylene. Suitable materials are described in GB patent application No. 2,333,965.



In use, the hand of a patient having a burn injury is introduced into the outer cover (12) via the open end (8). Re-sealable opening (4) may then be opened and folded back to expose the injured hand. The hand is then introduced into the porous pad which may be pre-assembled or assembled in situ around the injured hand. In the latter case, it may be convenient to fix the upper section (26) to the lower section (24) by suturing or stapling, rather than gluing or welding the foam. With the foam pad in place encompassing the injured hand, the cover (12) is drawn back over the porous pad and the opening (4) re-sealed. Spout (102) is then connected by a tube to a suction pump, e.g. using the technique described in WO 97/18007. Pulsed, intermittent or continuous negative pressure may be applied to the patient's hand in accordance with a programme which may be controlled automatically by a control device associated with the pump as described in our above patent application. Negative pressure therapy using the apparatus of the invention has been found to stimulate healing of burns and to reduce the progression of cell death beneath a burn injury. Also, by improving blood flow to the wound area, infection is controlled and granulation of the wound is stimulated.

One additional beneficial effect of therapy using the apparatus of this invention is that during therapy, the hand is held firmly in a half-closed position, which is the optimum position for promotion of healing. This can be further encouraged by the introduction of a rigid or semi-rigid splint, e.g. of plastics, which is formed or moulded into the desired shape, the collapsed dressing being strapped to the splint during or

after application of the suction, so that the desired healing position can be maintained after release of the suction.

The suction pump is preferably controlled by control means including a pressure transducer for monitoring pressure at the wound site as described in our above PCT application. A timer device may also be associated with the pump to provide on/off operation if necessary at selected intervals. The apparatus may also include a canister located between the porous pad and the pump to collect wound exudate. Typically, the pump is a diaphragm pump but other types of pumps and equivalent components, such vacuum bottles, may be substituted. The apparatus may also be used with a wall suction source as described in GB patent application No. 2,342,584.

The terms and expressions which have been employed are used as terms of description and not of limitation. Although the present invention relates mainly to partial-thickness burns, it is understood that the present invention may be used with open wounds as well as a possible treatment of pressure sores.

**CLAIMS:-**

1. Apparatus for stimulating healing of wounds which comprises an envelope for receiving an affected part of the body, said envelope including a substantially air-tight cover and a porous pad within the cover, said pad being adapted to contact the wound surface, and connection means for connecting the interior of the envelope to a source of negative pressure.

2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the envelope comprises a glove, sock or sleeve.

3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 which is intended for treating wounds to the hand and comprises a glove formed from a flexible plastics or rubber foam and an external cover of air-impermeable sheet material.

4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein the connection means comprises a tube which communicates with the foam within the cover.

5. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the cover has a re-sealable opening which permits the wound to be inspected at intervals.

6. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the source of negative pressure is a suction pump.

7. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims which includes a canister for collecting wound exudate.

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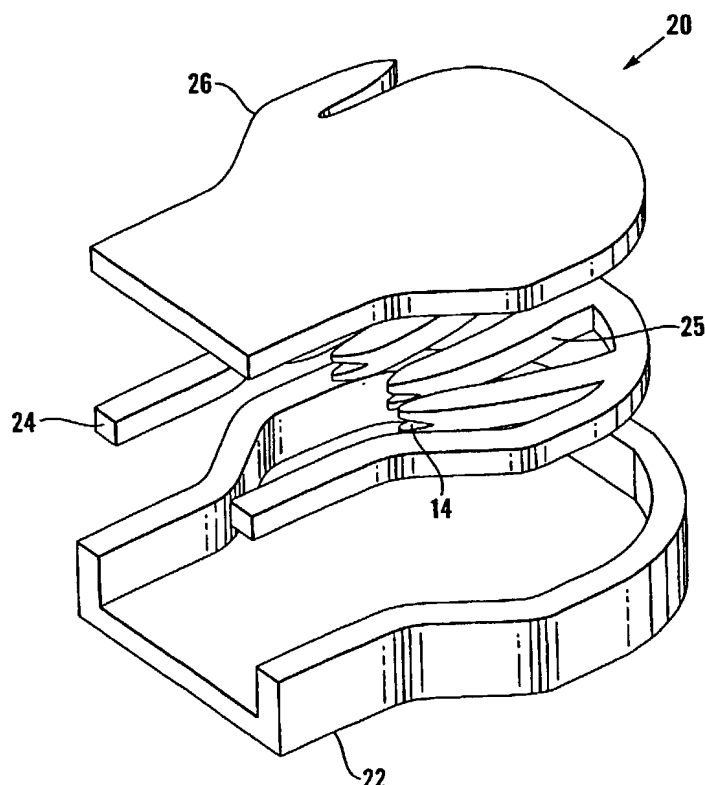
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/01566		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 20 April 2000 (20.04.00)			
(30) Priority Data: 9909301.5 22 April 1999 (22.04.99) GB			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KCI MEDICAL LIMITED [GB/GB]; Two Rivers, Station Lane, Witney, Oxfordshire OX8 6BH (GB).			
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(74) Agent: WOODCRAFT, David, Charles; Brookes & Martin, High Holborn House, 52/54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6SE (GB).			
		<b>Published</b> With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.	

(54) Title: WOUND TREATMENT APPARATUS EMPLOYING REDUCED PRESSURE

(57) Abstract

Apparatus is described for stimulating healing of wounds, particularly burns, to the hands or feet. The apparatus comprises an envelope for receiving the affected part of the body. The envelope (12) comprises an air-tight cover which contains a porous pad (22, 24, 26) for covering the wound. Means are provided for connecting the interior of the envelope to a source of suction.



1/4

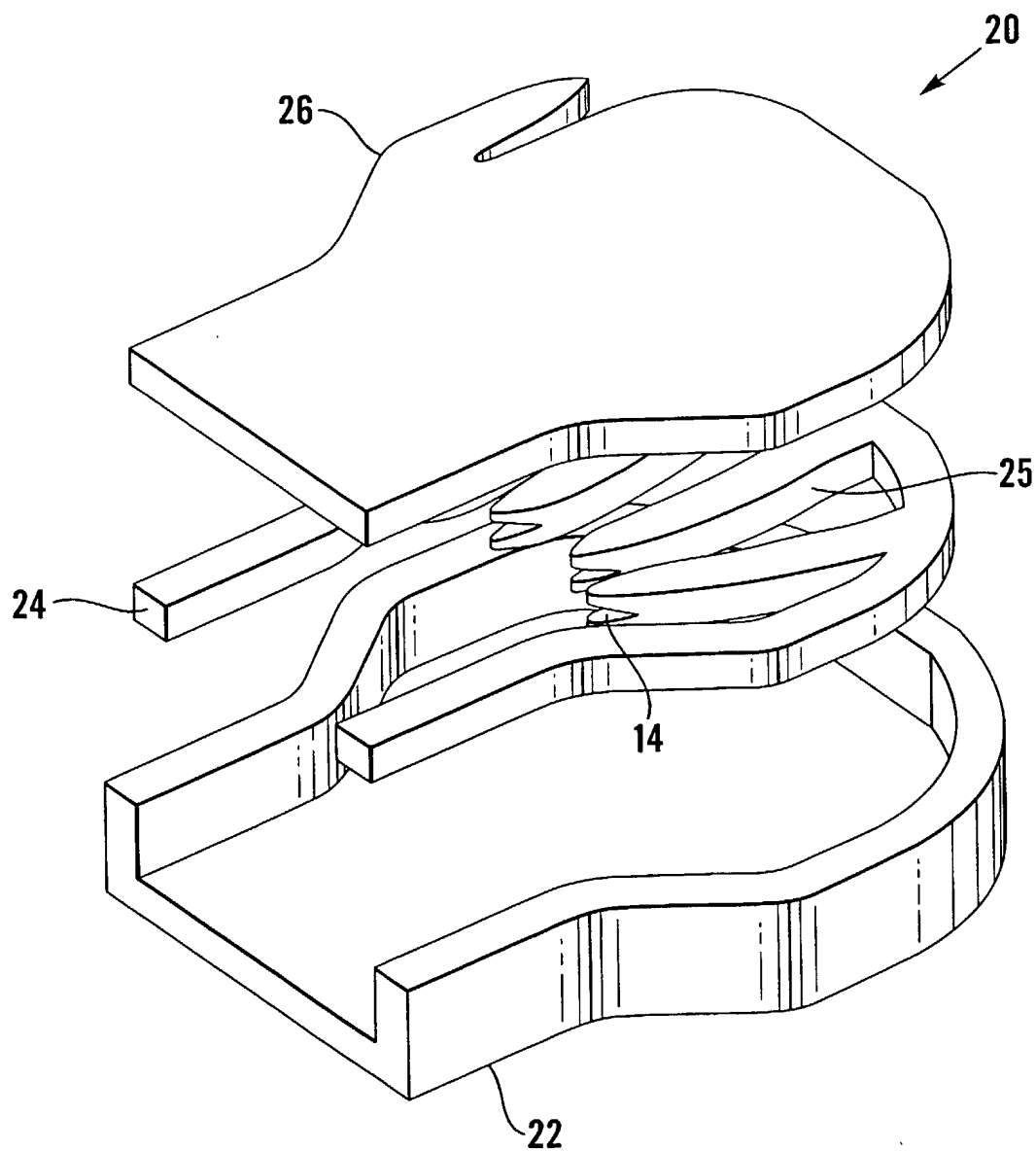


Fig. 1

2/4

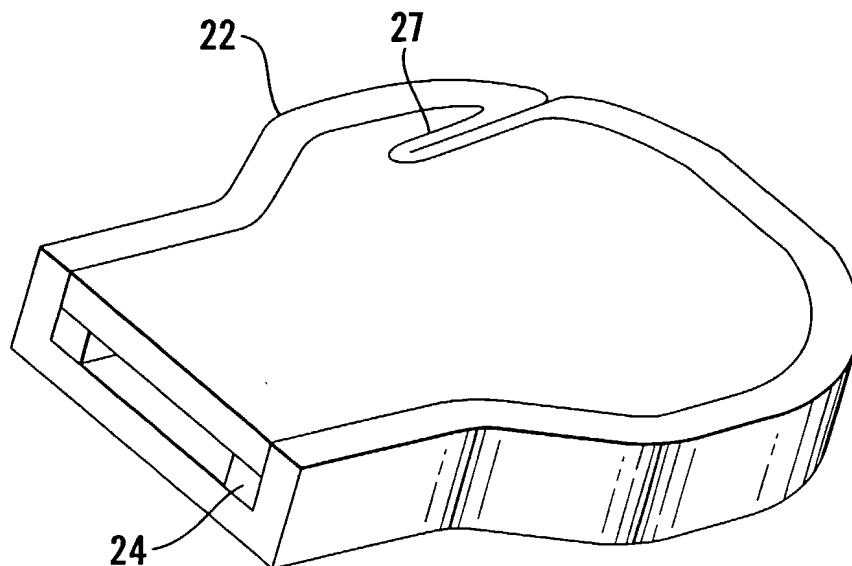


Fig. 2

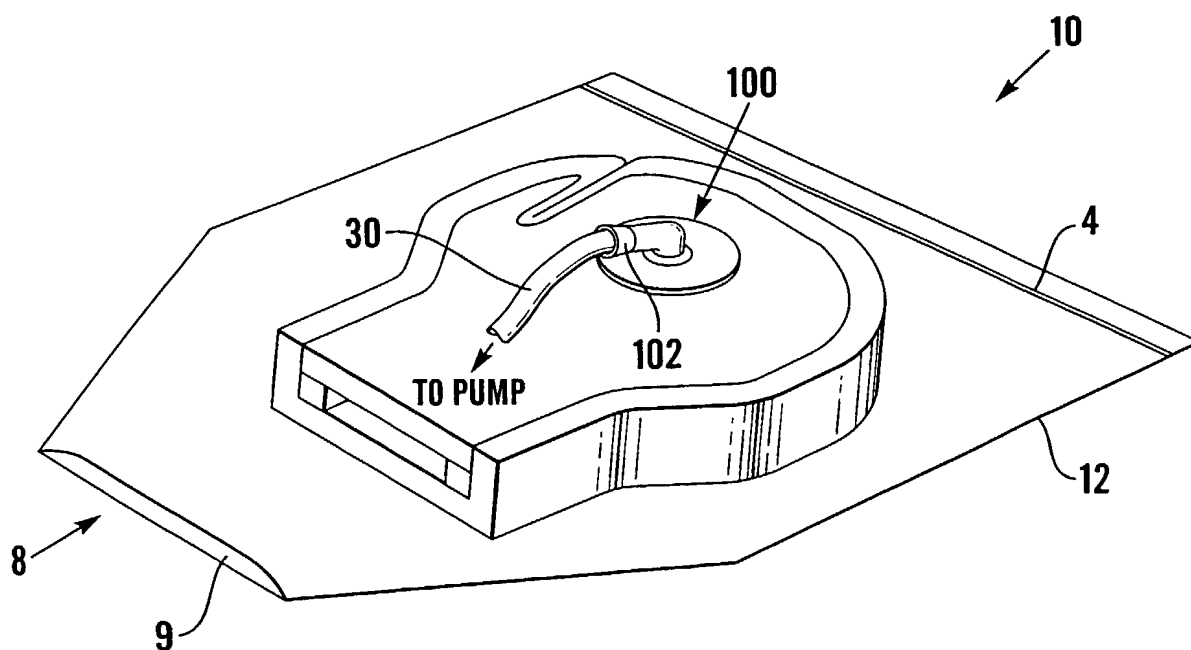


Fig. 3

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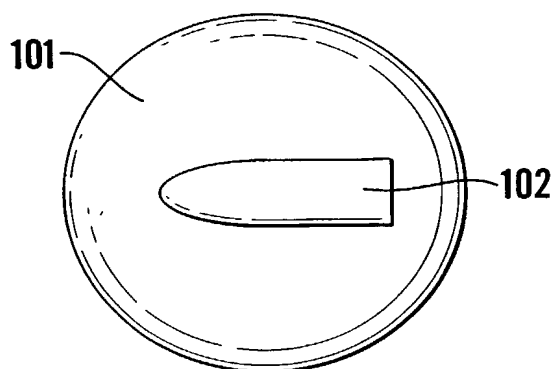


Fig. 4A

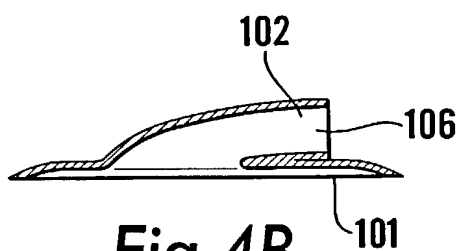


Fig. 4B



Fig. 4C

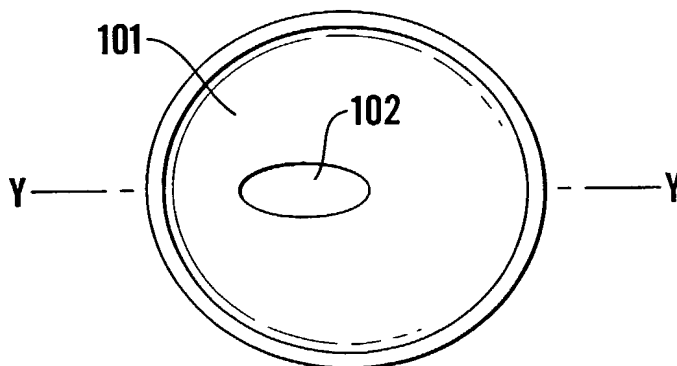


Fig. 4D

4/4

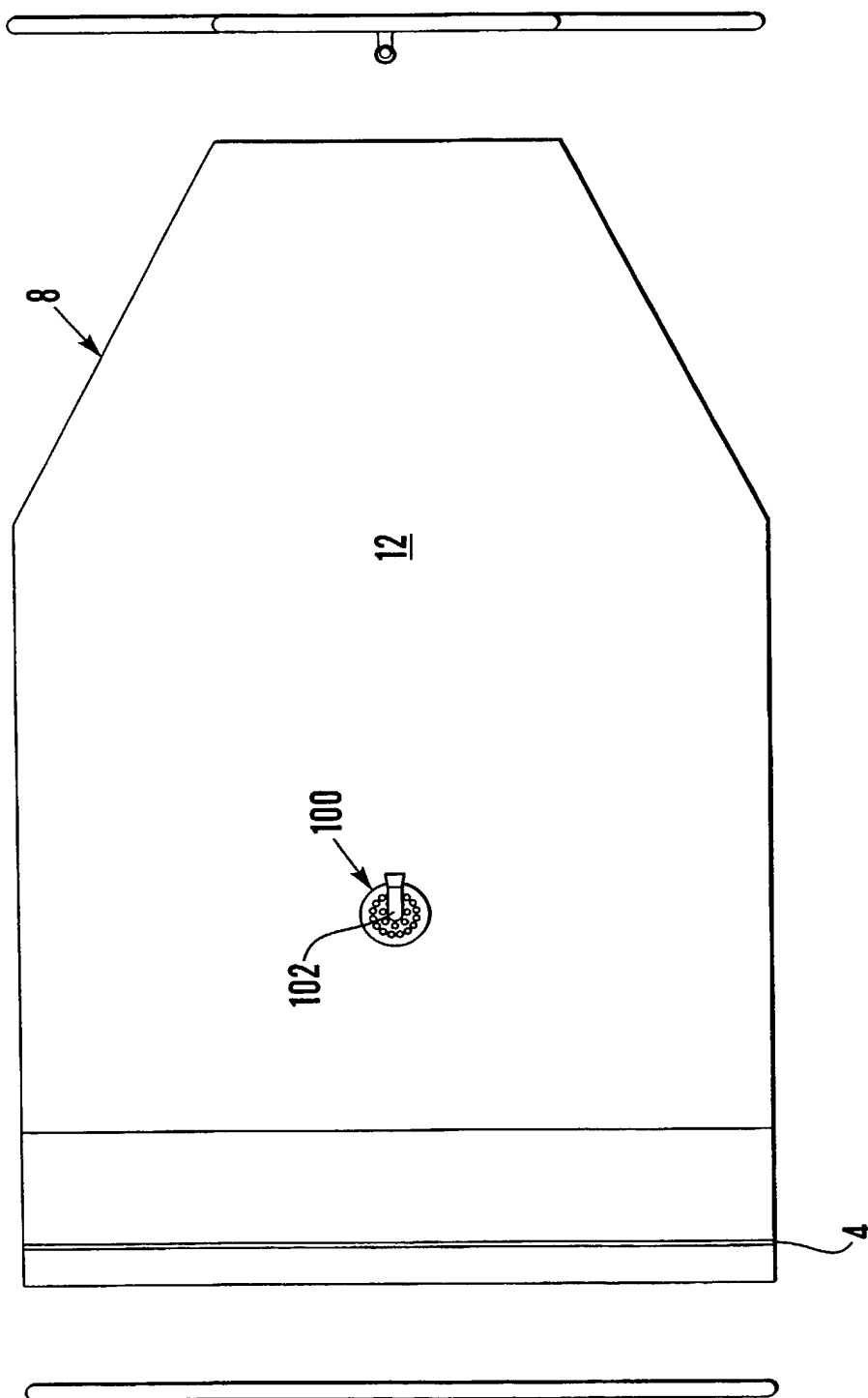


Fig. 5



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Application Number	n/a 10/009,294
Filing Date	Herewith 04/20/2000
First Named Inventor	HEATON, Keith
Title	WOUND TREATMENT APPARATUS EMPLOYING REDUCED PRESSURE
Group Art Unit	n/a
Examiner Name	n/a
Attorney Docket Number	VAC.704.US

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☐ Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.  
 Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96).

## SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Name Kenneth William Hunt

Signature

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☒ Total of 2 (two) forms are submitted.

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Application Number	n/a- 10/009,294
Filing Date	Herewith- 04/20/2000
First Named Inventor	HEATON, Keith
Title	WOUND TREATMENT APPARATUS EMPLOYING REDUCED PRESSURE
Group Art Unit	n/a
Examiner Name	n/a
Attorney Docket Number	VAC.704.US

I hereby appoint:

☒ Practitioners at Customer Number

30159

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Name	Registration Number

as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I am the:

☒ Applicant/Inventor.

☐ Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.

Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/98).

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Name

Keith Patrick Heaton

Signature

K.P. Heaton

Date

22nd May 2002

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.

☒ Total of 2 (two) forms are submitted.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

PTO/SB/01 (03-01)  
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0851-0032  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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<b>DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)</b>	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	VAC.704.US
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	HEATON, Keith
	<b>COMPLETE IF KNOWN</b>	
	<b>Application Number</b>	10 / 009,294
	<b>Filing Date</b>	Herswith 04/20/2000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	n/a
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	n/a
<input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)		

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**WOUND TREATMENT APPARATUS EMPLOYING REDUCED PRESSURE**

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto

OR

☒ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 04/20/2000 as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number PCT/GB00/01566 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (If applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
				YES	NO
GB 9909301.5	Great Britain	04/22/1999	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	GB		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

(Page 1 of 2)

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<b>DECLARATION      Utility or Design Patent Application</b>			
Direct all correspondence to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label		30159	OR <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below
Kinetic Concepts, Inc.; Attn: Nadeem Bridi <small>Name</small>			
P.O. Box 659508 <small>Address</small>			
City San Antonio	State TX	ZIP 78265-9508	
Country US	Telephone 210-255-4543	Fax 210-255-4440	
<small>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.</small>			
NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR :		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle (if any)) <u>Keith Patrick</u>		Family Name or Surname <u>Heaton</u>	
Inventor's Signature <u>K.P. Heaton</u>		Date <u>22nd May 2002</u>	
Residence: City <u>Poole</u> <u>GBX</u>	State <u>Dorset</u>	Country <u>GB</u>	Citizenship <u>GB</u>
24 Mansfield Road, Parkstone <small>Mailing Address</small>			
City <u>Poole</u>	State <u>Dorset</u>	ZIP <u>BH14 ODG</u>	Country <u>GB</u>
NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name (first and middle (if any)) <u>Kenneth William</u>		Family Name or Surname <u>Hunt</u>	
Inventor's Signature <u>[Signature]</u> <u>GBX</u>		Date <u>22nd May 2002</u>	
Residence: City <u>Merley, Wimborne</u>	State <u>Dorset</u>	Country <u>GB</u>	Citizenship <u>GB</u>
18 Egdon Drive <small>Mailing Address</small>			
City <u>Merley, Wimborne</u>	State <u>Dorset</u>	ZIP <u>BH21 1TY</u>	Country <u>GB</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.			